

## “Reversing Sexual Consequences”

*John 8:1-11*

### Introduction

Sexual consequences result from crossing God’s moral boundary and not viewing sex as sacred: simply put, sexual immorality is a violation of God’s moral law. When we don’t look at sex in the same way God does, choosing to ignore the guidelines for sex in God’s Word, we endure the repercussions of those choices on an individual and societal level.

Reversing the consequences of sexual immorality starts with returning to a sacred understanding of sex. God designed sex to be a part of the marriage covenant, which means that sex outside of marriage is a sin against God. As a result, physical intimacy outside of God’s will brings about consequences that are relational, emotional, and circumstantial in nature. In order to understand the consequences of sex, we must understand the importance of sex and why God created it for marriage. Then we must respect the moral boundaries He has established for us.

The next step in reversing the consequences of sexual immorality starts with a decision to prioritize obedience to God more than your desire to please others and even yourself. People struggle to uphold God’s standard because of the natural desire of the flesh, particularly if one is single, or if there is not a healthy relationship within one’s marriage. However, part of respecting the sacred nature of sex is to understand the role that contentment plays in the decision to obey God. We must learn to be content in whatever circumstance we find ourselves. The key to contentment is when we desire to please God more than we desire to please ourselves. When we choose sexual immorality to satisfy a moment of desire, we rob ourselves of fellowship with God, invite divine discipline, and open the door to the power of self-destruction.

In John 8:1-11, we find the story about a woman, who despite her sexual sin experienced the grace of God. This woman had been immoral and the grace extended to her by Jesus Christ removed the condemnation for what she had done and moved her progressively to a new future. Notice that in verse 11, Jesus extends grace towards her and then tells her to sin no more; he is establishing a breaking point for her to walk in newness. This Scripture teaches us that while we may not be able to change the past, we can move to a new future even in the area of sexual sin. When you choose to move forward in the grace offered through Jesus Christ, you have the opportunity to redeem whatever God has left for you. You can overcome sexual immorality by returning to biblical understanding of God’s grace and embracing the grace that He offers.

### Getting Started

1. Sex is sacred. In your own words, define what it means for something to be sacred?
2. How do you think our society views sex? Share examples that support your thoughts.

### Let’s Get Personal

1. How has this message affected or deepened your understanding of sex?
2. Sexual consequences can have both a direct or indirect affect on our lives. What are some of the sexual consequences you have experienced or witnessed -- either as a result of your own choices or the choices of someone else?
3. Okay, let’s get practical. Single or married, what are some of the boundaries you have chosen to set up in your life to guard the sanctity of sex in your life as an individual or as a spouse?

### Take the Next Step

1. One of the best ways to avoid sexual sin or move away from sexual sin is to establish accountability in your life for the boundaries you intend to honor as you honor God. How can your group hold you accountable as you seek to honor God in this area of your life?
2. Want to go deeper? Take time to look at the follow passages: Proverbs 5:1-23; 2 Samuel 11 & 12; John 8:1-11; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4; Leviticus 18:1-30; Job 31:9-11.

### Renew Your Mind

*“...neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.” John 8:11*